

Application No.: 10/692,865

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In the Office Action, the Examiner has noted FIG. 9 of Kapadia for not showing lines of flux passing through the rotating shaft.

Applicants respectfully disagree. FIG. 2 shows such lines of flux passing through the shaft. Column 6, lines 66 to column 7, lines 2 disclose:

As indicated by flux lines 54, a very small amount of flux tends to flow at the inner end of each of the magnets 41. Because reluctance in this area is at a maximum due to the air gaps, which are created by the broaches 50, and the shaft 16 being of non-magnetic material.

With regard to FIG. 9, although the leakage flux lines are not shown, column 8, lines 3-10 suggest that they are still there, although the leakage of flux is minimized by the broaches 66:

Each of the rotor laminations 61 has a broach 66 extending between the circumference of the shaft 16 and the inner end of each of the magnets 41. The broaches 66 also extend between the circumference of the shaft 16 and the inner end of each of the barrier elements 64. Thus, the same high reluctance is provided at the inner ends of magnets 41 and barrier elements 64 in rotor 60, to minimize leakage flux.

In a telephone interview conducted with the Examiner on March 11, 2008, the above arguments were presented and considered by the Examiner, who indicated that if these arguments were to be presented in a response, the 35 U.S.C. §102(b) rejection would be withdrawn.

Accordingly, in view of the remarks above, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. §102(b) rejection, and a Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

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In the event that this paper is not timely filed, Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. Please charge any fees for such an extension of time and any other fees which may be due with respect to this paper, to Deposit Account No. 04-1105.

Dated: March 25, 2008

Respectfully submitted,

By 

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